

**REMARKS**

**Response to Rejections Under § 103**

Claims 1 and 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Europe 561 (EP '561) in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0049294 to Shiina and optionally Europe 613 (EP '613). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present invention provides a tire in which an abrasion resistance and a low heat build-up property are enhanced by improving the processability of the rubber composition without causing a reduction in the physical properties thereof and without causing problems with the working environment and by providing improvement with respect to the issue of reversion of the natural rubber (see, e.g., page 6, lines 9-16 in the specification).

In this regard, Applicants submit herewith a Declaration by Mr. Motoyuki Mamiya, demonstrating that the present invention achieves a perfect balance among improved processability of non-vulcanized rubber compositions, a heat build-up property and an abrasion resistance which would not have been obvious from the art.

Mr. Mamiya's Declaration compares Examples 2 and 3 with additional Comparative Examples A to E. Examples 2 and 3 represent compositions containing natural rubber as the rubber component and meeting all of the requirements of Claim 1, which achieve lower Mooney viscosities (a low Mooney viscosity improves processability of a non-vulcanized rubber composition), excellent heat build-up properties and improved abrasion resistances as compared to additional Comparative Examples A to E, which do not meet all of the requirements of Claim 1. The Table in the Declaration outlines these results.

Thus, EP '561, EP '613 and Shiina fail to render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP '561 in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,927,144 to Hayashi et al and optionally further in view of Shiina and/or EP '613.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP '561 in view of Hayashi and optionally further in view of Shiina and/or EP '613 as applied above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,103,808 to Hashimoto.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants submit herewith a Declaration by Mr. Eiji Nakamura, demonstrating that the invention of Claim 10 provides unexpectedly superior results.

Mr. Nakamura's Declaration compares Examples 14 and 15 with additional Comparative Examples F to I. Examples 14 and 15 represent compositions containing oil extended styrene-butadiene copolymer as the rubber component and meeting all of the requirements of Claim 10, which achieve low Mooney viscosities as compared to additional Comparative Examples F to I, which do not meet all of the requirements of Claim 10. Further, driving stability, wet gripping properties and abrasion resistances of Examples 14 and 15 are about the same as or more than that of additional Comparative Examples F to I.

Thus, the cited art fails to render obvious the present claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE  
Application No.: 10/526,466

Attorney Docket No.: Q86580

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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